

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1-21: (canceled).

Claim 22 (new): A computer-implemented system for assisting an operator of an embroidery machine to make an embroidered fabric from an embroidery design using the embroidery machine, said computer-implemented system comprising:

- a knowledge base of parameters for making the embroidered fabric from the embroidery design wherein the parameters are in at least one of the following categories: hooping technique, stabilization technique, topping material, backing material, thread weight, thread type, needle type, needle size, embroidery density, project/fabric type, fabric thickness, fabric density, fabric stretch and design size;

- a rules base of rules interrelating two or more of the parameters;

- selection software responsive to the operator for permitting the operator to select a parameter from the parameters and for defining a parameter for making the embroidered fabric wherein the defined parameter is a function of the operator selected parameter;

- analysis software for applying the rules to the defined parameter and for generating one or more recommended parameters for making the embroidered fabric, wherein the one or more recommended parameters is a function of the defined parameter;
- and

- display software for providing a display corresponding to the selected and defined parameters and corresponding to the one

or more recommended parameters such that the one or more recommended parameters define parameters for making the embroidered fabric from the embroidery design using the embroidery machine.

Claim 23 (new): The computer-implemented system of claim 22 wherein the parameters includes a parameter in at least one of the following categories: hooping technique, stabilization technique, topping material, backing material, thread weight, thread type, needle type, needle size, embroidery density, project/fabric type, fabric thickness, fabric density, fabric stretch and design size.

Claim 24 (new): The computer-implemented system of claim 22 wherein the selected parameter is project/fabric type; wherein the selection software designates two or more defined parameters; and wherein the defined parameter comprises fabric thickness and fabric stretch.

Claim 25 (new): The computer-implemented system of claim 24 wherein the operator may modify the defined parameter.

Claim 26 (new): The computer-implemented system of claim 22 wherein the operator may modify the defined parameter and wherein the analysis software applies the rules to the modified defined parameter.

Claim 27 (new): The computer-implemented system of claim 24 wherein the knowledge base includes comments, photographs or multimedia presentations which are a function of the selected parameter, the defined parameter, and/or the one or more of the

recommended parameters and wherein the display software displays the provided comments, photographs or multimedia presentations.

Claim 28 (new): A method for assisting an operator of an embroidery machine to make an embroidered fabric from an embroidery design using the embroidery machine using a knowledge base of parameters and a rules base of rules interrelating the parameters, said method comprising the steps of:

designating selected and defined parameters for making the embroidered fabric from the embroidery design, wherein said selected and defined parameters are in at least one of the following categories: hooping technique, stabilization technique, topping material, backing material, thread weight, thread type, needle type, needle size, embroidery density, project/fabric type, fabric thickness, fabric density, fabric stretch and design size, wherein the defined parameter is a function of the selected parameter;

applying the rules to the selected and defined parameters; generating one or more recommended parameters for making the embroidered fabric, wherein the one or more recommended parameters is a function of the application of the rules to the defined parameter; and

displaying the selected and defined parameters and the one or more recommended parameters such that the one or more recommended parameters define parameters for making the embroidered fabric from the embroidered fabric using the embroidery machine.

Claim 29 (new): The method of claim 28 wherein the parameters includes a parameter in at least one of the following categories: hooping technique, stabilization technique, topping material, backing material, thread weight, thread type, needle

type, needle size, embroidery density, project/fabric type, fabric thickness, fabric density, fabric stretch and design size.

Claim 30 (new): The method of claim 28 wherein the selected parameter is the project/fabric type; further comprising the step of designating two or more defined parameters; and wherein the defined parameters comprise fabric thickness and fabric stretch.

Claim 31 (new): The method of claim 30 further comprising modifying the defined parameter.

Claim 32 (new): The method of claim 28 further comprising modifying the defined parameter.

Claim 33 (new): The method of claim 28 further comprising providing comments, photographs, or multimedia presentations which are a function of the selected parameter, the defined parameter, and one or more recommended parameters and displaying the provided comments, photographs or multimedia presentations.

Claim 34 (new): A system for assisting an operator of an embroidery machine to make an embroidered fabric from an embroidery design using the embroidery machine, said system comprising:

a personal computer including:

a knowledge base memory of parameters for making the embroidered fabric, wherein the parameters are in at least one of the following categories: hooping technique, stabilization technique, topping material, backing material, thread weight, thread type, needle type, needle size, embroidery density,

project/fabric type, fabric thickness, fabric density, fabric stretch and design size; and

a rules base memory of rules interrelating the parameters;

and including a processor for executing:

selection software responsive to the operator for permitting the operator to select a parameter and for defining an additional parameter for making the embroidered fabric wherein the defined parameter is a function of the operator selected parameter;

analysis software for applying the rules to the defined parameter and for generating one or more recommended parameters for making the embroidered fabric, wherein the one or more recommended parameters is a function of the defined parameter; and

display software for providing a display corresponding to the selected and defined parameters and corresponding to the one or more recommended parameters such that the one or more recommended parameters define parameters for making the embroidered fabric from the embroidery design using the embroidery machine.

Claim 35 (new): The system of claim 34 wherein the parameters includes at least one of the following categories of parameters: hooping technique, stabilization technique, topping material, backing material, thread weight, thread type, needle type, needle size, embroidery density, project/fabric type, fabric thickness, fabric density, fabric stretch and design size.

Claim 36 (new): The system of claim 34 wherein the selected parameter is project/fabric type; wherein the selection software

7

TAC 9764.1  
PATENT

designates two or more defined parameters; and wherein the defined parameters comprise fabric thickness and fabric stretch.

Claim 37 (new): The system of claim 36 wherein the operator may modify the defined parameter.

Claim 38 (new): The system of claim 34 wherein the operator may modify the defined parameter and wherein the analysis software applies the rules to the modified defined parameter.

Claim 39 (new): The system of claim 34 wherein the knowledge base includes comments, photographs, or multimedia presentations which are a function of the selected parameter, the defined parameter, and/or one or more of the recommended manufacturing parameters and wherein the display software displays the provided comments, photographs, or multimedia presentations.